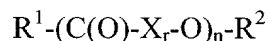


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coating composition, comprising:

a latex polymer; and

a coalescent having the formula:



wherein:

R^1 is an organic group;

X is a divalent organic group;

r is 0 to 1;

n is 1 to 10; and

R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group;

with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms

when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8;

with the proviso that the coalescent has less than two aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

2. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the coalescent does not phase separate from the coating composition upon standing at 49°C for four weeks.

3. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero.

4. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds.

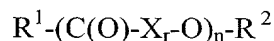
5. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein r is one.

6. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.
- 5 7. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about 4°C to about 10°C.
- 10 8. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about 4°C to about 5°C.
- 15 9. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.
- 10 10. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 20%.
- 20 11. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 15%.
12. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a number average molecular weight of no greater than about 750.
- 25 13. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a number average molecular weight of less than about 500.
14. The coating composition of claim 1, which is in the form of a paint.
- 30 15. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein n is 1 to 5.
16. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein n is 1 to 3.
17. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein n is 2 to 3.

18. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R^1 is an organic group having less than 100 carbon atoms.
- 5 19. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R^1 is an organic group having substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof.
- 10 20. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R^1 is an organic group having 3 to 24 carbon atoms and substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; and wherein R^2 is hydrogen.
- 15 21. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50.
- 20 22. The coating composition of claim 14, wherein p is 1 to 2.
23. The coating composition of claim 14, wherein $m + pq$ is less than about 23.
- 25 24. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group having less than 100 carbon atoms.
26. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is a divalent organic group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.
- 30 26. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is a divalent organic group having 3 to 5 carbon atoms.
27. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is an organic group having substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, and combinations thereof.

28. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8.

5 29. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



wherein:

10 R^1 is an organic group;

X is a divalent organic group;

r is 0 to 1;

n is 1 to 10; and

R^2 is hydrogen or an organic group;

15 with the proviso that R^1 includes at least three carbon atoms

when X is not $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 2 to 8;

with the proviso that the coalescent does not includes aliphatic
unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds;

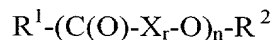
with the proviso that r is one when R^2 is hydrogen;

20 wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about
50%, is dispersible in the coating composition, and facilitates the formation of
polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

25 30. The coating composition of claim 29, wherein the coalescent facilitates
the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about
4°C to about 10°C.

30 31. The coating composition of claim 29, wherein the coalescent facilitates
the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about
4°C to about 5°C.

32. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



5 wherein:

R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q$ - wherein R^3 is an alkyl
or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50;

X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8;

r is 0 to 1;

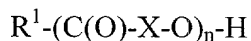
10 n is 1 to 10; and

R^2 is hydrogen or R^1 ;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about
50%, is dispersible in the coating composition, and facilitates the formation of
polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

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33. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



20 wherein:

R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing
substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl
groups, and combinations thereof;

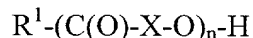
25 X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group
containing nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and carbonyl groups; and

n is 1 to 10;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about
50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

- 30 34. The coating composition of claim 33, wherein the coalescent has a
volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

35. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



5 wherein:

R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof;

X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; and

10 n is 1 to 10;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

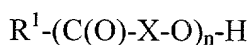
36. The coating composition of claim 35 wherein s is 3 to 5.

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37. The coating composition of claim 30, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

38. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:

20



wherein:

25 R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens;

X is an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens and carbonyl groups; and

n is 1 to 10;

30 wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

39. The coating composition of claim 38, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

5 40. The coating composition of claim 1, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

41. The coating composition of claim 29, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

10 42. The coating composition of claim 32, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

15 43. The coating composition of claim 33, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

44. The coating composition of claim 35, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

20 45. The coating composition of claim 38, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.